

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Protection device~~ A device for protection against voltage surges, comprising:

a first connecting electrode in electrical connection with a first connecting pad,

as second connecting electrode in electrical connection with a second connecting pad,

a third mobile arc switching electrode electrically connected to the second connecting pad,

an arc chute opening out onto the first and second connecting electrodes,

means for driving the mobile electrode with respect to the first connecting electrode from an operating position to a switching position moving away from the first connecting electrode and moving towards the second connecting, so that an electric arc drawn between the first connecting electrode and the mobile electrode switches between the first connecting electrode and the second connecting electrode when the mobile electrode moves from the operating position to the switching position,

an electric dipole connected ~~in such a way so~~ so that when the mobile electrode is in the operating position, the electric dipole is connected to the arc switching electrode on the one hand and to the first or second connecting pads on the other hand, and that when the mobile electrode is in the switching position and an electric arc is drawn between the first connecting electrode and the second connecting electrode, the electric dipole is disconnected from the circuit, the electric dipole having an ohmic resistance varying ~~non-linearly~~ inversely with the voltage applied to the dipole, the ohmic resistance being high when the voltage is lower than an ignition voltage and decreasing when the voltage increases above the ignition voltage.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 1, wherein the electric dipole is connected in series between the switching electrode and the second connecting pad.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 2, wherein the mobile electrode in the operating position is in contact with the first connecting electrode.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 1, wherein the electric dipole is connected in series between the first connecting electrode and a fixed ~~fourth~~ electrode ~~situated~~ located at a distance from the first connecting electrode ~~and in such a way so~~ that the mobile electrode in the operating position is electrically connected to the fixed ~~fourth~~ electrode.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 1, additionally comprising ~~in addition~~ electromagnetic induction projection means ~~to induce~~ for inducing electromagnetic forces on an electric arc formed between the first connecting electrode and the mobile electrode tending either to project the arc to the arc chute ~~and/or tending or~~ to make the arc switch ~~on~~ to the second connecting electrode.
6. (Currently amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 1, wherein the riving means ~~comprise~~ comprises electromagnetic induction repulsion means ~~to induce~~ for inducing electromagnetic forces on the mobile electrode through which a current is flowing tending to drive the mobile electrode to the switching position.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 6, wherein the electromagnetic induction repulsion means ~~comprise~~ comprises a magnetic driving circuit ~~to channel~~ for channeling a magnetic flux generated by an electric current flowing between the first connecting pad and the first connecting electrode to the mobile electrode in the operating position, so that when an electric current flows from the first connecting pad to the mobile electrode, electromagnetic forces are induced in the mobile electrode, tending to drive the mobile electrode to the switching position.
8. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 1, wherein the driving means ~~comprise~~ comprises a mechanism equipped with a mobile means for operation between an operating position and a disconnection position, and a kinematic link between the means for operation and the mobile electrode ~~to drive~~ for driving the mobile electrode to a disconnected

position when the means for operation move from the operating position to the disconnection position.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to ~~claims~~ claim 1, wherein the driving means ~~comprise~~ comprises a mechanism equipped with a mobile means for operation between an operating position and a disconnection position, and a kinematic link between the means for operation and the mobile electrode ~~to drive~~ for driving the mobile electrode to a disconnected position when the means for operation move from the operating position to the disconnection position.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 1, wherein the driving means ~~comprise~~ comprises flexible return means for returning the mobile electrode to the operating position.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to claim 1, wherein the driving means ~~comprise~~ comprises an energy storage spring for discharging when driving the mobile electrode from the operating position to the switching position.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device according to ~~foregoing~~ claim 1, wherein the electric dipole comprises a variable resistor.

13. (New) A device according to claim 1, wherein one of said first and second connecting pads is for connection to an electric line, and the other of said connecting pads is for connection to earth.